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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043615

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NA, GY, JM, CU

SUBJECT: THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SURINAMESE PRIME MINISTER ARRON

1. THIS TELEGRAM IS BASED UPON AN UNCLEARED MEMCON AND IS SUBJECT TO REVISION.

2. IN VERY CORDIAL FEBRUARY 25 MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, PRIME MINISTER ARRON STRESSED SURINAM'S DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND HIS FULL AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON HOW THE U.S. SHOULD CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN POLICY.

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3. ARRON ALSO EMPHASIZED GOS CONCERN ABOUT CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN, RAISING IT THREE TIMES IN THE CONVERSATION AND OBSERVING THAT "WE DO HOPE THE U.S. WILL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION". HE NOTED CUBAN INFLUENCE IN GUYANA AND JAMAICA, OBSERVED THAT GOS IS IN NO HURRY TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA, AND REFERRED TO CUBAN USE OF GUYANESE FACILITIES IN THE ANGOLA AIRLIFT. IN THIS CONTEXT AMBAS-

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SAOR KARAMAT ADDED THOUGHT THAT "THE ENTRY OF COMECON INTO THE REGION IS DEEPLY DISTURBING TO US".

4. AT ARRON'S REQUEST, THE SECRETARY OUTLINED U.S. POLICY VIS-A-VIS CUBA, STRESSING OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE THE MANY ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE US, BUT POINTING OUT THE DIFFICULTIES IN MOVES TOWARD NORMALIZATION. THE SECRETARY ASSURED ARRON OF OUR RECIPROCAL DESIRE FOR EVER MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH SURINAM AND OF OUR CONCERN TO REVITALIZE OUR TIES WITH THE REST OF THE HEMISPHERE. AT ARRON'S REQUEST, THE SECRETARY ALSO BRIEFED HIM ON PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ARRON MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

A. GOS INTENDS PROCLAIM 200 MILE FISHING ZONE THIS YEAR.

B. GOS IS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS BORDER PROBLEM WITH GUYANA. GOS IS NOW NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT OF ITS EASTERN BORDER WITH FRANCE AND IS CONFIDENT OF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. ONCE DEAL STRUCK WITH FRENCH, GOS WILL BE IN STRONG POSITION TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUYANA. (ARRON DID NOT SEEK ANY EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT AND THE SECRETARY MADE NO RPT NO COMMENT.)

C. GOS IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF ENTERING CARICOM, BUT HAS NOTED THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESENT MEMBERS. (ARRON LEFT IMPRESSION THAT GOS UNLIKELY
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TO MOVE QUICKLY ON THIS ISSUE.)

D. GOS HAS ESTABLISHED A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH BRAZIL AND HOPES VERY SOON TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME WITH VENEZUELA. (NO SPECIFIC CONNECTION WAS DRAWN BETWEEN THIS GOS EFFORT AND BORDER DISPUTE WITH GUYANA.)

6. ON DEPARTURE TO NEW YORK SAME AFTERNOON, ARRON STRESSED TO DEPTOFF HIS SATISFACTION IN MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY.
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